

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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R 270918Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL MUNICH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0522
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, GW
SUBJECT: CSU LEADERSHIP INTENSIFIES PREPARATIONS
- FOR POSSIBLE 4TH PARTY EFFORT

1. IN THE WAKE OF THE JUNE 4 HAMBURG AND LOWER SAXONY ELECTIONS, THE CSU LEADERSHIP HAS INTENSIFIED ITS PREPARATIONS FOR A POSSIBLE 4TH PARTY EFFORT IN THE 1980 BUNDESTAG ELECTIONS. THERE IS ALSO A GROWING CONVICTION IN CIRCLES CLOSE TO CSU CHAIRMAN STRAUSS THAT SOME ELEMENTS OF THE CDU ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY INTERESTED IN THE POSSIBILITY OF RUNNING PARALLEL CDU AND CSU SLATES IN ALL TEN LAENDER IN 1980.

2. SEVERAL WELL-PLACED SOURCES AT CSU HEADQUARTERS HERE HAVE INDICATED THAT THE PARTY HAS ALREADY COMPILED INVENTORY OF PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES FOR CSU BUNDESTAG ELECTION LISTS IN LAENDER OUTSIDE BAVARIA. THESE SOURCES ARE
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CONFIDENT THAT THE PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES INCLUDE ENOUGH ATTRACTIVE PERSONALITIES TO ENABLE THE PARTY TO FIELD IMPRESSIVE LISTS IN VIRTUALLY ALL LAENDER. SOURCES IMPLY THAT PERSONALITIES INCLUDE ACTIVE RPT ACTIVE CDU MEMBERS.

3. ONE USUALLY RELIABLE CSU SOURCE HAS TOLD US THAT THE TOP CSU LEADERSHIP HAS ALREADY DECIDED TO ESTABLISH A 4TH

PARTY OUTSIDE BAVARIA AFTER THE LANDTAG ELECTIONS IN HESSE AND BAVARIA IN OCTOBER. THIS SOURCE CLAIMS THAT MOST OF THE REMAINING 4TH PARTY OPPONENTS IN CSU RANKS BASE THEIR OPPOSITION ON FEAR OF POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF A PERMANENT CDU MOVE INTO BAVARIA. ONCE BAVARIAN LANDTAG ELECTION IS OVER, SAYS SOURCE, THIS FEAR WILL BE NEUTRALIZED UNTIL 1982.

4. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE CSU HEADQUARTERS HAS BEEN MAKING CAREFUL PREPARATIONS FOR CSU 4TH PARTY EFFORT FOR SOME TIME. IN OUR JUDGMENT, HOWEVER, STRAUSS AND HIS ASSOCIATES WOULD GIVE 4TH PARTY EFFORT A SECOND THOUGHT SHOULD FDP FAIL TO SURMOUNT FIVE PERCENT BARRIER IN HESSE. SHOULD CSU ULTIMATELY DECIDE ON 4TH PARTY EFFORT, WE BELIEVE STRAUSS AND HIS LIEUTENANTS WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO PERSUADE, CAJOLE AND PRESSURE CDU LEADERSHIP INTO COLLABORATING IN THIS ENTERPRISE. BETTS

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